

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING

7:00 pm

August 15, 2016

The Council Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order by Mayor McKay. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865.

Motion to resume Regular Session by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Prayer followed by Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor McKay stated "adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Gazette and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building."

Present: Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay.

Attorney Campbell reported Council was in Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes. The topics of discussion were personnel and contractual regarding Phillipsburg High School. Attorney Campbell asked Council for a motion to authorize her and Clerk Dilts to take actions discussed in Executive Session. Motion by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay.

NAYS: None

Public Comment: Motion to open the floor for public comments on agenda items only by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor. No comments from the public. Motion to close by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilwoman Reitemeyer. All in favor.

Business:

NJ Dept. of Transportation – Response to letter written by Dan Gural on I-78 Logistics Park. Council President Pryor wrote a letter in response to Mr. Gural's letter regarding the Rt. 22 traffic that the Logistics Park might impact it. Motion to approve the letter pending Counsel review. Motion by Council President Pryor, seconded by Councilwoman Reitemeyer. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay.

NAYS: None

The Illusion Maker – Response to letter for payment from The Illusion Maker. Mayor McKay explained this program scheduled at the school was not properly approved by the Council and as a consequence proper insurance was not presented and there was no documentation sent to the CFO to contract by purchase order for this event. They've been informed the Council did not want to make payment and they have written a letter asking for the payment. Council President Pryor noted they have worked with Lopatcong Township for eight years and he had no idea of the history. Council President Pryor noted that he stated nine reasons last meeting; the wrong liaison, Councilwoman Schneider greeted them at the school. There was no mention of this at the Council Meeting on May 4th and could not support the payment at this time. Councilwoman Reitemeyer noted this was in June after Councilwoman Schneider resigned her Council seat. It appeared Councilwoman Schneider went out of her way not to bring this matter to Council for approval. This is not routine at all and a departure from proper procedure. Here to represent the taxpayers. The funds would be drawn from the Clean Community funds. Council President Pryor could not support, as a mess from beginning to end; the business owner should have known better as well as Ms. Schneider. Attorney Campbell said you can pay the invoice but under no obligation to pay it because it was not authorized. Mayor McKay stated that he was in favor of paying them and make sure they know what has to be done if he deals with us again. Councilwoman McCabe was not contacted in regard to this event as she is the Clean Communities liaison. Mayor McKay made a motion to pay The Illusion Maker. No second to the motion. No action can be taken.

Diana Dove – Warren County Fair -Performance at the fair for \$440.00 to be paid out of Clean

Communities. Tabled until the next week.

Resolution No. 16-113 – Authorize increase not to exceed \$5,000 for Bell, Shivas & Safolo, P.C. With regard to McKay v. Pryor et al. Council President Pryor said he thought this was close to the end. Friday a notice was received by the Court issued an order approving Council majority's request for Summary Judgment and unless the Mayor appeals the case, it is over, so this would bring this matter to \$20,000.00 so this would be a sufficient amount to cover what is owed the attorneys. Council President Pryor made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Reitemeyer. Roll call vote:

AYES: Council President Pryor, Councilwoman Reitemeyer.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor McKay

Rally Point – Councilwoman Reitemeyer stated that Mr. Nixon is requesting that benches and a shade be installed. Mr. Nixon wants to pay for it but it should go through Council for an approval. They have money for two more benches also. Councilwoman Reitemeyer stated she is working on setting up a meeting to develop a schedule to hammer out details for scheduling events and renting the pavilion. There will be a proposal to Council sometime in the future. Councilwoman Reitemeyer made a motion to approve the benches and shade, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay

NAYS: None

PBA Local #56 Social Affair Permit – This is for participation in Community Day. Councilwoman Reitemeyer made a motion to approve seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay

NAYS: None

Payment of Bills - \$73,171.69 – Motion by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay

NAYS: None

Audience Participation – Motion to open for audience participation by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Brian Weeks – Expressed his thoughts on payment of The IllusionMaker. They have been used many times. Listening to the conversation, they were told by one of your council people to go ahead and he thought the bill should be paid followed by letter explaining how to go forward with the procedure. Council President Pryor reconsidered his vote although disappointed in the way it was done – he said we should not be spending grant money without Council approval. Councilwoman Reitemeyer made the motion to approve, seconded by Council President Pryor. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilwoman Reitemeyer, Council President Pryor, Mayor McKay

NAYS: None

Lori Ciesla – 12 Meadowview Drive – Asked to double check the list of payments for vendors for community day. Talking with Bill Nixon for the Rally Point – he is looking to get a contract like the LAA so they can use their pavilion for free. There will be determined a fee schedule for everyone else. Recreation Committee has raised about \$4,000.00. There was also \$500 in the grant line item for the Announcer's Booth.

Motion to end audience participation by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Adjournment – Mayor McKay asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Reitemeyer, seconded by Council President Pryor. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts
Clerk/Administrator

Thomas M. McKay
Mayor